



From The Desk Of

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"LEST WE DESPAIR"

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race relations, was requested
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"Least We Despair"

An Analysis of Race Relations Developments During 1950

The brief study of which this article is a report sought to identify (1) significant developments in the broad field of Negro-white relationships and other minority group developments during 1950 that affect the status of Negroes in this country; and (2) to determine whether there was change for the better or worse in the status of the American Negro during 1950. *(Note as to sources)*

THE COURTS OF THE NATION

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Supreme Court The struggle for democracy in America has been guided by its responsible leaders in the true American tradition -- frank discussion, and finally through legal channels including the provision of such channels where none have existed before. It is understandable that the comparative finality of court decisions regarding discrimination and segregation based on race, creed, color, or national ancestry attaches great significance to such decisions.

During 1950 the courts of the nation have rendered, in certain instances, decisions that do indeed ^{change} ~~affect~~ the status of the Negro in America. The well-documented decisions of the United States Supreme Court on June 5, 1950 actually change the "legal" status of segregation. Three decisions were handed down on that day on the McLaurin case and the Sweatt case, both with respect to admission to ^{and equal treatment in} institutions of higher learning, ^{with respect to segregation in the refusal of service in railway dining cars} and the case of Elmer Henderson ^{vs.} Southern Railway Company. *16*

In the *McLaurin* case the opinion of the Court was, in part, that "state-imposed restrictions which produce such inequities (as imposed on *McLaurin*) cannot be sustained"; and in the *Sweatt* case: "Equal protection of the law is not achieved through indiscriminate imposition of inequalities." Such opinion goes beyond the matter of the two immediate cases and rather changes the very basis of "legal" discrimination...that^{has} established by the Supreme Court in 1896 (*Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U. S. 537) through its holding ~~that~~ "separate but equal" facilities satisfied the equal protection part of the 14th Amendment.

The Supreme Court decision of June 5th reversed the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission which had upheld segregation on Southern Railway Company's dining cars.

In practice the pattern of separate and unequal facilities did not change during 1950. The significance of the year lies in the establishment of a clarified legal basis for much more work to be done in this area.

District Court In June, the Federal District Court in Houston, Texas, granted an injunction to Negroes prohibiting the Fort Bend County Jaybird Association (which was ruled a political party) from barring Negroes from voting in the association's primaries, the only primary where the real choice is made of elected county officials. In ruling that the Association is a political party, a part of the state election machinery, and that Negroes are entitled to vote in the Jaybird party primary, notice is given to similar maneuvering of white

the United States during 1950 did practically nothing to effect true democracy *at home.*

State Legislatures

South Carolina passed an anti-mask bill. A similar bill to unmask hooded and un-American organizations was killed by the House in Georgia. In Virginia, a civil rights bill to create a Virginia Commission on Race Relations was defeated. In Massachusetts, a bill to bar discrimination on account of color or race in housing accommodations was defeated. On the other hand, in Massachusetts the name of the state Fair Employment Practices Commission was changed to the State Commission Against Discrimination, *and* the new organization was given expanded duties, including prevention of racial or religious discrimination in any place of public accommodation, resort or amusement.

(Paragraph at end of "Intro." to be included here)

Cities

Civil Rights
Innumerable ordinances were called up throughout the nation, in municipal governments. In San Francisco, an FEPC bill was defeated despite excellent support from most of the more responsible organizations of that city. Similar legislation was defeated in numerous other municipalities. Work toward passage of such bills has not ceased. As a matter of fact, in Portland, Oregon, after being defeated earlier in the year, such legislation was passed just in time for the city of Portland to receive

an award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

It would appear that legislative groups in most states were reactionary and unwilling to close the gap between treatment of minorities and Negroes in particular, and first-class citizenship. Several states were exceptions, notably New York, where several bills were passed that forbade discrimination or segregation in the areas of employment agencies and housing ^(the Fairing bill) ~~(the Weathers Austin bill)~~. The new ~~from the~~ Legislature put into operation a new state Constitution that might well serve as a model for the nation. It guarantees civil rights of all citizens as no other state Constitution has ever done.

Official Pronouncements and Attitudes of Prominent Public Officials

A large number of outstanding statements were made by outstanding people during the year. These statements were directed toward every main aspect of democratic practices, ~~or interpreting the problems~~ ^{high of} the problems, aspirations and/or efforts concerned with the securing of democratic rights for all Americans.

President Truman made several strong statements insisting on passage of civil rights legislation. Speaking before or having his words read before innumerable conferences of organizations directly interested in civil rights, the President asserted his intention of continuing to demand passage of every item in his civil rights program he presented ^{to} Congress. Towards the end of the year the world situation, particularly ^{the situation} ~~that~~ in Korea, was given as the cause for placing such legislation in a secondary category, national defense taking priority over everything else. ~~The Congress itself made these developments take all for any really effective civil rights other than such as might be effected by executive order.~~

Many Congressmen and others spoke up for their own or other civil rights measures. However, in the main, responsible public officials maintained a studied political discretion by refraining from making statements favorable to civil rights legislation. When such statements were made they were usually directed to a specific measure under consideration. Several governors, mayors, and other public officials showed, by implication, favorable attitudes toward genuine equality for all Americans.

Senator Lehman speaking before the American Civil Liberties Union and inserting his speech into the Congressional Record, declared that America must "lead the way in espousing the cause of freedom and plenty, of liberty and security. And let America show the way by strengthening and expanding democracy and equality here at home."

When the University of Connecticut chapter of Phi Kappa Phi initiated a Negro into its membership, and was suspended by its national organization, Governor Bowles urged the national headquarters of the fraternity to take all possible steps to revoke the suspension. The fraternity was founded at the City College of New York in 1904. The chancellor of the chapter at GCHY announced the chapter's vote to disaffiliate because of the action of the national body in the matter of the University of Connecticut suspension.

Governor Shivers announced the creation of a Council for the Study of Human Relations. The council was empowered to find "ways and means of improving the relationship between the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking people of Texas". Governor Williams ordered abolition of racial segregation in the Michigan National Guard, a move taken previously in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin.

Attitudes

The final test of progress or lack of progress in attitudes most prevalent in 1950, lies in the degree of actual acceptance of Negroes into the main stream of the American way of life. The increase in equality of job opportunity and other necessary rights tells the final score. But, in the background there ^{will} are specific attitudes the relationship of which to other demonstrable developments, ^{will} ~~we~~ ^{can't} go without particular notice. They ^{will} are frequently taken for granted.

The development of wholesome public attitudes towards democracy is a major task. During 1950 the status of that task of ~~such attitudes~~, was reflected in statements and actions of innumerable individuals and groups. For the most part efforts continued in the same channels. Progress is discernible, but only in the strength and level of its examples when compared with an almost equal number of bigoted actions and attitudes demonstrated.

Perhaps the crux of the problem was hit upon during the year by Lester B. Granger, Executive Director, National Urban League, while speaking at the dedication of the new headquarters of the Newark (N.J.) League affiliate. Mr. Granger declared, "If we can look ahead, establish our goals and marshal our forces to overcome or absorb opposition, we can solve the race problem before 1975. All we need is a sense of urgency and the willingness to do the job".

In Columbus, Georgia, a Federal Judge rapped the Georgia Democratic party for defying Supreme Court decisions on racial segregation. The (Georgia) State Democratic Convention, meeting earlier in August, declared that Georgia would not permit mixing of races, regardless of Supreme Court decisions. The clash of attitudes is sharpened by widely quoted remarks of Federal Judge A. B. Conger and of James S. Peters, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee. (Judge Conger: "It was most inappropriate, inopportune, unseemly, and arrogant for a small segment of the people of this state, filled with prejudice, inebriated by power, and blinded by egotism, to propose and have passed by a Democratic Convention of Georgia a resolution to disregard, disobey, challenge, and contest decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States....." Mr. Peters: "Judge Conger seems to be entirely out of line with traditions of his people.")

A ~~statement~~ ^{statement} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} (Congress of Industrial Organizations), expressed in Birmingham, Alabama, by Philip Murray, President, addressing the CIO Southern Organizing Committee during August, is an example of CIO ~~statement~~ opinion. Mr. Murray said, "We are going to stop the wage differential between Northern and Southern workers, between white and Negro workers down here as we did in the coal fields in 1933."

^{themselves} the Negroes contributed to the views of American Negro in the United States, held by persons in other countries. ^{the addition to general views abroad} ~~By outstanding~~

^{7th} achievements, such as those of Negroes in the various walks of American ^{direct interpretation of Negro life in the U.S. was accomplished also.} life, ~~attitudes around the world were influenced by Negroes as they travelled and interpreted formally and informally.~~ Dr. Stuart Nelson, dean of Howard University, and Dr. Herman D. Scruggs, president of Lincoln University, attended the International Students' Seminar in Nagpur, India, and interpreted Negro life in America. Fifteen editors from foreign countries toured the United States during the summer, studying general conditions, and in Atlanta, Georgia, the race problem particularly. A small group of the editors ^{conferred} ~~talked~~ with William Gordon and C. A. Scott, editor and general manager, respectively, of the Atlanta Daily World, the only Negro daily paper in the world.

In Charleston, South Carolina, the home of Federal Judge J. Walter Waring was the target of "pellets" and Mrs. Waring the target of many intimidations after Judge Waring outlawed all-white elections in South Carolina. Mrs. Waring was quoted by the New York Post (2-18-50) as saying, "My character and the Judge's have been defamed, but we both understand the situation here very well. We are not concerned. Yet, the rest of the year brought increasingly serious attempts on the freedom and property of the Waring's, so much so ~~that~~ it was reported that a police vigil had to be kept on the Waring's home.

In the North, many more evidences of constructive and destructive attitudes are easily found, particularly more ^{of} the former than are found in the South. ~~However~~, Indicative of the year, was the realization of at least one public action in New York City that named a large street intersection, a circle at 110th Street and Eighth Avenue

Frederick Douglass Circle, after the Negro statesmen.

In Washington, D. C., Oscar Ewing, Federal Security Administrator added eighteen places for delegates from Georgia ^{to the White House Third Century Conference on youth} after Governor Herman Talmadge had refused to include Negroes among the delegates selected to fill the original 36 places. The addition of 18 places was to provide Negroes a voice; each of the 54 delegates would have only 2/3 of a vote.

In November, the ⁱⁿ National ^b Board of governors of the American Red Cross voted to eliminate the requirement that the racial identity ^{should} be made of people donating blood to the Red Cross blood collecting

 in February, it was found that 80% of Blackmount students disapproved of bias in fraternities.

HONORS

One aspect of second-class citizenship is the denial of places of prominence to Negroes in the various avenues of American life. The top executive job, the position of honor resulting from long and excellent service, and policy-making responsibilities are seldom placed in the hands of person who is a Negro. The past decade saw many breaks in this sort of exclusion, ~~although the general picture has remained the same.~~ ^{particularly} Politics is one area that is responsible for much progress, ~~and~~ in 1950. ~~was responsible for the most substantial gains.~~ Negroes were elected or appointed to important posts in the North, South, East and West. Recognition has been realized also in some little-heralded areas that have good meaning locally. The impact of these latter honors achieved by Negroes is important for the well-being of the whole nation. The following items are indicative of ~~the~~ present status.

One of the most feted and lionized individuals during 1950 was Dr. Ralph Bunche. Dr. Bunche continued to receive awards and citations all over the nation, but of most significance was his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as United Nations mediator in Palestine. The picture of the American Negro gained through the prominence of Dr. Bunche in international affairs served to increase the prestige of the whole ethnic group of which Dr. Bunche is a member. Among scores of significant honors accorded him was his being named a professor of government at Harvard University, the first such direct appointment of a Negro to a rank of professor there.

~~HOWARD~~

One of the most feted and lionized individuals during 1950 was R. Ralph Bunche. Mr. Bunche continued to receive awards and citations all over the nation, but of most significance was his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as United Nations mediator in Palestine. The picture of the American Negro gained through the prominence of Mr. Bunche in international affairs served to increase the prestige of the whole ethnic group of which Mr. Bunche is a member.

The way in which Mr. Edith Sampson began to discharge her duties in 1950 as the appointed Alternate Delegate of the United States to the United Nations was outstanding. For this work she has been cited by innumerable organizations and individuals. The Negro woman was moved up a notch in the sight of Americans by Mrs. Sampson's performance and honors given her.

Partially in the area of honors generally held to be outside of ~~and~~ politics, there occurred a representative number of esteemed appointments. William H. Hastie was appointed to the Circuit Appeals Court, the highest court post ever before held by a Negro. Harold Stevens was elected to a \$28,000 a year post as judge of the Court of General Sessions of New York by 291,000 votes. (If every registered Negro had voted for him the number would have

Marion Anderson was honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, in February.

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Phillipa Schnyler was awarded the Chevalier of Honor and Merit by the Republic of Haiti.

Alberta Mitchell, a senior at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia, and Patricia Worthington of Peabody High School in Petersburg, Virginia, won first prizes in their respective states' "Voice of Democracy" contest sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasts and other groups, and competed for by Negro and white youth in all states.

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Houston Moore won second place in the International Fabric Design contest.

Mrs. Ethel Bryant of Los Angeles was named by Congressman-elect Sam Yorty of the California 14th district, as his field secretary. Only once before was such a post held by a Negro in that state. Miss Juanita Terry was secretary to Helen Cahagan Douglass, for three years.

Charles M. Hanson, Jr. of New York was assigned as a vice-counsel in the Consulate-General's office in Zurich, Switzerland, by the United States State Department. It is understood that the State Department took steps during the year to place Negroes in about a dozen foreign offices of the department. Regardless of the possibility of this move being made to counteract Russian propaganda about mistreatment of Negroes in the United States, the actual assignments should carry weight on the scales of democracy.

Governor G. M. Williams appointed Charles R. A. Smith to be one of the three members of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Appeals Board. The appointment is for six years at \$7,000 annually, and is one of the highest-paid public jobs held by a Negro in the state of Michigan.

Governor Chester A. Bowles named E. Avery Adams as a member of the administrative staff of the Governor's office of the state of Connecticut. The job is permanent, under the Connecticut merit system and was secured after earning the highest grades in a competitive examination taken by about 100 persons.

In the South last December, Magistrate A. M. Eason, of Gastonia, North Carolina, was sworn in, becoming the first Negro elected to public office in the history of that 104-year-old town.

The Prix de Rome was awarded to Wlysses Kay.

Dr. Howard McNeill was appointed to the Michigan State Board of Registration in Medicine.

HATE MOVEMENTS

The trend of growing public concern and contempt for "hate organizations" is illustrated by the increasing lack of fear that Negroes and poor whites in the South have of the Ku Klux Klan. Outstanding public officials have begun to find their tongues when the decent public is outraged by some brutal, senile expression of racial or religious hatred by organized groups. Several states and cities considered anti-mask legislation; such legislation passed in Alabama during 1949 passed the South Carolina House unanimously (Jan. 11, 1950) but ^{later,} was killed ^{and} met ignominious defeat in ^{the} Georgia ^{House} (Feb. 7, 1950). In East St. Louis, a Circuit Court Judge revoked the charter of the White Circle League of America because it disseminated highly inflammatory printed matter, directed at developing racial hatred. This 1950 trend in steps taken toward outlawing hate organizations is seen as slow, against a background of only 5 states having outlawed the Ku Klux Klan, the number one hate movement.

STATE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSIONS

There are now fair employment practice laws in ten states, and ~~some~~ ^{similar} such regulations in eleven cities. Some kind of legislation prohibiting discrimination in special areas has been enacted in ~~the~~ thirty-four states. These prohibitions are in such areas as civil service, defense war contracts, labor unions, public works, and the teaching profession. It was not to be expected that as many states would enact fair employment practices laws during 1950 as did so in 1949. By and large, state legislatures were not in regular session during 1950. However, special sessions were called in most states and satisfactory opportunity existed for passing of such legislation.

It is generally recognized that in two states, Indiana and Wisconsin, legislation is so weak as to make enforcement of the law extremely difficult. ^{enforcement} Enforcement of the law in the eight other states having such legislation ~~was not~~ ^{remained basically} ~~significant~~ ^{disfused}. It is significant that since the beginning of operation of the first state commission against discrimination

in New York in 1945 there has been but one public hearing called to force employer's compliance with the law. This one exception occurred during 1950 when the Connecticut Interracial Commission held a public hearing in the case of Oscar S. Draper v. The Clark Dairy. The hearing tribunal ordered Clark Dairy to "cease and desist forthwith from refusing to employ Oscar S. Draper". The Clark Dairy appealed the decision through the Connecticut Attorney General's office and on October 10th, 1950, The Superior Court at New Haven issued a decision upholding the hearing tribunal. ~~On~~ two of the three appeal counts ^{and} modified the third, as follows: "In the event that Oscar S. Draper presents himself for employment you are hereby ordered to cease and desist from refusing because of his race to employ him."

In no other such important area of infractions of the law have as many cases been settled as amiably as the implications of the reports of these state commissions imply.

Moreover, There is real question in terms of ~~the~~ present analysis as to whether Clark Dairy's being ordered to employ

(like the smart that Oscar S. Draper presents himself for employment ")
one Oscar S. Draper, tends to change the status of the

Negro group in America. *Yet, the manifold problems in enforcing fair employment practices laws, come right back to the individual person discriminated against unless the law enables an enforcement body to prevent discrimination, and not subsequent records and heavy stiff penalties. If the individual must wait until the wheels of present agencies have secured an order or promise to employ that individual, how does he live? His law agreement satisfied?*

The Draper case was a good example with ~~out~~ ^{out} existing machinery, admittedly the best yet secured, showing the actual significance of present laws

EDUCATION

In the wake of the unanimous and momentous decisions of the United States Supreme Court on June 5th, a comparative avalanche of color bars were dropped. According to a 1950 survey of the Southern Conference Education Fund, approximately two hundred Negroes were admitted to twenty-one state institutions of higher learning in eleven southern states, and private colleges in three states have moved to lower such bars. Our own check of the facts underscores the significance of changes in this field. The College of William and Mary, the second oldest institution of higher learning in America, has announced its readiness to accept "qualified Negroes" into its law school. Three Catholic colleges in Kentucky, and three private high schools and the Friends School in Delaware have declared their doors open to Negro students. Thirty-two students enrolled in these seven schools during last year.

Such progress does not indicate complete victory. The Court decisions that are directly responsible for the largest number of Negroes ever to enter state-supported and heretofore white institutions in any single year have so far only denied the policy of separate and equal education for Negroes and whites -- a policy which was never lived up to by the states espousing it. The pattern of separate and unequal remains.

In Kentucky the amending of the "Day Law" to permit Negroes to attend primarily all-white schools if the governing

authorities approved and if equal, courteous and accredited schools are not available in Kentucky State College (a Negro school), there is retained the policy of separations *still retained, but* now with exceptions.

The majority of admissions of Negroes to previously all-white universities in these categories, have been for training not offered in the Negro segregated schools of the state. *Compared to past years,* in this day ~~to must consider these specific~~ *are* changes significant. *NP* Of significance also ~~are~~ *are* the ~~growth~~ *steady trend seen in the* addition of Negroes ~~admitted~~ to faculties of northern schools, ~~Negroes~~ *admitted* to local Boards of Education, *and in* new public elementary and high schools for Negroes, built in more modern and complete style than ever before. Millions of dollars were spent during 1950 for new Negro schools, but the total picture of the education of Negroes in the United States remains one of gross differences from that afforded white students.

MIGRATION

For the total year the most significant problem in the area of migration involved seasonal migratory labor. The status of the Negro in this problem continued to change.

There is a growing interest in the use of Puerto Ricans as seasonal farm workers. According to an article by Stanley Levy in the New York Times of September 7th, 1950, Roland Watts, a representative of the Workers Defense League said,

"The southern Negro share cropper is being replaced as a result of mechanization and shoved out into the migratory stream where he is not wanted. The reason for this is that he is not as amenable to control as the non-continental Puerto Rican or the foreign Jamaican contract worker."

Some 5,200 Puerto Ricans were used on the farms of Michigan for the first time during 1950. 14,000 Puerto Ricans were flown into the cooperative camp operated by Gloucester County farmers in Glassboro, New Jersey, and some 6,000 Negro migrants worked on Long Island, New York.

In terms of working conditions there was little change during the year. A few states have some regulations designed to improve these conditions. New York and New Jersey are the scenes of much activity along these lines. However, on April 18th, 1950, Governor Dewey vetoed a bill to protect migrants that had been passed by the Assembly of the Senate. In Michigan, a representative of ^{the} Michigan *Farmers' Cooperative* ~~Union~~ ^{Association}, incorporated, an organization of 15,913 growers in forty-four counties of Michigan, testified before the President's Commission on Migratory Labor that the growers were working out the best interest of the workers and that any attempt of the Federal Government "to do more than to advise and to educate would be resented by the farmers". The problem of migratory labor remained. The status of the Negro was changing in this area only because he is being supplanted.

SPORTS

In the area of sport the greatest limelight shone on Althea Gibson, tennis star, who after outstanding finishes in the Western Indoor Tennis Meet in March and constant unquestionably top-flight play was invited by the United States Lawn Tennis Association to compete in its tournament in Forest Hills, Long Island in September. The emergence of Miss Gibson into this internationally important competition in the tennis world broadened the position of the Negro in sports.

In June, Jean Patton, Tennessee State College sprint star, defeated Marjorie Jackson of Australia permitting another view of the Negro woman in America, that rarely occurs.

Negro men continued to dominate the realm of boxing, but 1950 saw distinctly less demand for the perennial "white hope" to eliminate Negro boxing champions.

The presence of Negroes in major league baseball continued somewhat of a novelty but their playing ability kept winning first places and awards as "the best" in several categories.

More than twelve of the US, CIAA, AAU, and NCAA track championships were won by Negroes.

The world's weightlifting crown was won for the third consecutive year by a Negro, John Davis.

In collegiate football, Johnny Bright took top honors for total offensive yards, 2400 yards, while playing for Wake University; and the ^{international} ~~international~~ professional footballers, the Cleveland Browns, took the National Football League crown.

Such outstanding ~~play~~ performance on the basketball courts as that of one of the Negroes on the City College of New York team, who won ^{the year} personal honors as his team won its championship, is commendable. Greater significance is attached to the performance of Negro basketball players, ~~particularly~~ inasmuch as television brought into thousands of homes the visual proof of how American teamwork can excel.

~~The~~ Associated Press sports writers chose Jesse Owens as the greatest track athlete of the first half of this century.

The District of Columbia got its first Negro boxing commissioner when Dr. Joseph F. Trigg was appointed to fill a vacancy that had existed in the commission for ten years.

In addition to the performance of Negroes in sports, 1950 saw the simultaneous use of public swimming pools by Negroes and whites. In two hot-beds of animosity toward such a controversial phase of recreation, ~~both~~

St. Louis, Missouri and Washington, D. C., Longstanding grievances arising out of Negroes being barred from public swimming pools were set to rest by both groups swimming together during the season. In the District of Columbia 145,000 white persons and 90,000 Negroes used the pools. There was not one instance of racial trouble *reported* during the entire season, despite the fact that in 1949 the District of Columbia Recreation Board tried desperately to flout the order of the Department of Interior, that Negroes be allowed to swim in District pools. However, in Youngstown, Ohio, the end of the 1950 swimming season found a continued absence of forthright statements from responsible officials attacking the prejudices addicts who condemned Negroes as *tools* of the Communists, *and as* pawns and victims of politicians, when they attempted to swim in city-owned pools.

Typical of several incidents of its kind, with Negroes in the major league baseball teams playing with *other* ^{*white in*} ~~their~~ teams ~~from~~ the south, is the case of the two baseball teams scheduled to play in Parson, Tennessee. The local club had invited a team from Dixon, Tennessee. When the latter appeared at the city park they discovered that the local team was composed of Negroes. After a pause the white visiting team insisted on playing. They won, 8 - 6, and asked for a return game.

An appeal reached the United States Supreme Court in November requesting a decision on the legality of the refusal of the Baltimore, Maryland Park Board to permit interracial activities in public parks. The case had passed through the Federal District Court in Maryland and the Fourth United States Circuit Court of Appeals, both of which upheld the Board. Strategic importance is attached to this case in as much as there is no written rule, decree, or statute requiring segregation in sports activities in Baltimore facilities.

EMPLOYMENT

In almost every state in the country Negroes began work in jobs previously beyond the reach of members of their group. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Ruffing H. Paul, Jr., became the first licensed electrician in the history of the city, if not in the entire state. In Richmond, Virginia, Hamlet Herring was the first Negro to be appointed ^{to the position of} meter reader. Mrs. Luella Lawhorn, of Los Angeles, was the first Negro stewardess ever to work in that capacity on a major shipping line on the west coast. Also in Los Angeles, Christopher C. Scott was appointed Senior Assistant Superintendent of Money Orders, a job which is, according to officials, the highest executive position held by a Negro in the United States postal system.

Such advances as the above-mentioned items indicate the slow and arduous progress Negroes made during 1950. Mrs. Mae Turner Myers was credited in May 1950 with achieving promotion to the position of sales clerk in a downtown Los Angeles department store, the first Negro saleswoman in any downtown store of that city, without the help of outside groups, solely through her own excellent performance. However, most progress in this field is the result, directly or indirectly, of efforts of innumerable lay and professional organizations.

The effect of state or local fair employment practices laws and the general climate developed as a result of discussion of such laws, cannot be overlooked. Therefore, in weighing achievements in the job area, ^{the} ~~the~~ impact is ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{relationship} considerable when the ^{relationship} results of organizational efforts ^{to the general public} ~~are~~ ^{is} ~~determined~~ ^{determined}. Numerous organizations in the field of inter-group relations or civil rights have contributed heavily toward making discrimination on account of race, color, creed or national ancestry a loathsome thing. Beyond that, many such organizations maintain employment services as well as operations directed toward enabling members of minority groups to secure jobs without ^{of financial} aid being necessary. For instance, the National Urban League, through its guidance program and vocational opportunity campaign focuses ^{the} ~~the~~ attention of young people, their parents, their teachers and employers on the need to plan and train for vocations. In 1950, this

emphasis reached over 350,000 young people, and the campaign was observed in 362 schools, colleges, and universities in 350 cities and towns in the nation.

At the same time, the Industrial Relations Department of the national organization and its 58 affiliates referred more than 10,000 persons to jobs. Through its pilot placement project and a cooperative on-the-job-training program, new opportunities were found that spread the base of Negro employment. For instance, in Omaha, Nebraska, Negroes were employed as telephone operators for the first time in the history of that city as a result of Urban League activities. With the help of the National Urban League, Schenley Distilling Company inaugurated a special sales training course for eleven new Negro salesmen from all sections of the country. Each apprentice was selected on a competitive basis from among a number of applicants secured through the aid of various local branches of the Urban League.

Telephone companies in ^{various} other sections of the country have been moved toward the ^{adoption of} ~~extension of~~ democratic hiring policies. The ^{western} Northwestern Telephone Company hired its first Negro linesman during the year. The Illinois Bell Telephone Company, ^{during 1953} having hired its first Negro operators in 1947, ~~today employs~~ over one hundred Negroes in this capacity. Some 400 other Negroes in the employ of the Company are at work in personnel department, coin ~~box~~ collectors, clerical workers and tellers throughout the system.

This success as viewed in 1950 is not unusual among the telephone companies over the country, although Negroes are still largely excluded from most exchanges.

Wilmer J. Whiting, Jr., on passing the certified public accountant examination became the first Negro CPA in the history of Cleveland. Three Negro sales girls were hired by

the May Company, a large downtown department store in Cleveland. *The first Negro sales clerk in a downtown United States department store was placed by the Great Cities Campaign in 1941, the year of Carnegie.*

Five Negroes were employed by the Toledo Blade, the leading daily newspaper of Toledo Ohio. Two are clerical workers, two are copy boys, and one is a reporter. *Parsons Book and Co., Chicago published this book about its total Negro employees to more than 10,000 in 1941, plus their personnel, sales, and maintenance.*

The first Negro interne in the history of Michael Reese Hospital (one of the largest in Chicago), Dr. Yvette Fay Francis, was appointed during the year. *Later a second Negro joined the clinical staff.*

Dr. Ethel L. Dickson became the first Negro to be appointed to the Psychiatric Staff of John Hopkins Hospital, as assistant in psychiatry and as assistant psychiatrist in the out-patient department.

In April, the Atlantic City (N.J.) Hospital decided to accept Negro doctors and nurses for the first time.

Southern cities employed Negroes for the first time in their history as policeman, policewomen, and firemen, notably: *Reidsville, North Carolina; and Atlanta, Georgia, where six Negro policemen were hired; and in Richmond, Virginia, where three Negroes were employed as firemen after earning very high scores on competitive examinations. The first Negro to serve on a Police Examining Board for oral examination of applicants*

occurred in Los Angeles, California.

J. L. Brady was selected from among some fifty applicants as sales representative for Los Angeles County and the State of Arizona for the Lucky Lager Company.

Breweries For almost half a century the brewery industry of the United States has excluded Negroes from production jobs. During the year some twenty-five Negroes were employed by three major firms in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, breaking that traditional exclusionist policy. The breweries, Pabst, Blatz, and Schlitz and the CIO Brewery and Distillery Workers Milwaukee Local cooperated with the National Urban League in this change. This is another instance of organizational aid in the change of the status of Negroes in employment.

Federal Social Security

Greater security for some million domestic employees was made possible during the year by their being made eligible for Old Age and Survivor's Insurance under the new Social Security law. Affected are cooks, gardeners, maids, valets, practical nurses, and chauffeurs of privately-owned cars. The large number of Negroes in these categories make this an important development for the group.

Pennsylvania Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia employed its first Negro women as clerical workers during the year 1950.

For what is believed to be the first time ^{in the history of the country} a ^{major} ~~major~~ bank ^{in the metropolitan} ~~in the nation~~ has undertaken a ^{major} ~~major~~ re-development program ^{in the metropolitan} ~~in the nation~~ in a Negro ghetto district. The Bowers Savings Bank of New York

began buying large sites in Harlem for a new branch office, a group of modern stores and offices, and a large housing project. These sites are being acquired in a section of Manhattan for which mortgage money has been all but un-
re development program
available. The capital outlay of this ~~bank in Harlem~~ *re development program* is expected to range between three million and five million dollars.

Negro Business The field of insurance continued to be perhaps the strongest area of Negro business. Practically all Negro insurance companies realized important increases in the number of policy holders as well as in their working capital.

A. Simon in the news

Indicative of general progress in this field is the fact

that M. L. Simon of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company is the

first Negro to become a Fellow of the Life Management Association Institute. *whereas, the previous study so indicated with report that*

Negro insurance companies represented

at the National Insurance Association's conference in Los Angeles ~~was reported to~~ hold some 120 million dollars in

assets. *NA* A growing field of Negro business is now recognized

as that of building and loan associations, *and* across the country

several such firms realized growth during the year. Despite

adverse criticism and difficulties suffered by *the* Broadway

Federal Savings and Loan Association in Los Angeles, *that the*

company continued its growth, and is reported to have some

\$3,410,000 in assets. This continued growth and stability

is ~~an indication~~ of the growing strength of the organizational

structure of such companies, *In this instance, the growth*

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was continued despite alleged thefts of money by its now-former President and General Manager. This sort of advancement of Negro ~~business firms~~ ^{also} is illustrated ⁱⁿ by the taking of new and expanded offices ^{by} ~~at~~ the Fairchild Realty Company in Los Angeles, after being in business only five years. The company was credited during the year with sale of three of the foremost local real properties.

Prejudice and discrimination are still formidable barriers to Negro employment across the nation. Although some 261 Negroes are known to have been placed by the Urban League alone in jobs and industries which formerly did not employ Negroes in the particular jobs these took, the problem remains acute. This is particularly so in the higher job ^{cat}egories. Indicative of signs of the times is the fact that the Urban League could point to recruitment officers of engineering and manufacturing industries, directing their attention to engineering graduates of Negro universities for the first time in American ~~educational~~ history.

RELIGION

dilemma

The ~~ineffectiveness~~ ^{ineffectiveness} of organized religion in America ^{is} ~~is~~ facing squarely the problem of injustice meted out to 1/10 of the country's population, continues to waver. 1950 saw its share of outstanding Christian acts in and out of the church. The significance may be said to be on the "good" side of the ledger.

2100 delegates to the National General Conference of Congregational Churches, held bi-annually, elected a Negro minister to the chairmanship of the Churches National Executive Committee. He ^{now} ~~will~~ heads the group that will handle the affairs of the Congregational Church until its next meeting in 1952.

In direct contrast to the report of a church group in Alabama, resolutions passed by the Congregational Church Conference include the following: (1) praise of Congregationalists for an undivided effort to reach the goal of non-segregated church life; (2) "We renounce the pattern of segregation in race relations as unnecessary and undesirable and a violation of the gospel of love and human brotherhood."

The Alabama Report on Christian Relations adopted by the Presbyterian, U. S., Synod of Alabama, of 1950, uses the word "inevitable" and states: "We are faced with two inevitables, the Federal Constitution and the Christian conscience. Both dictate that legal segregation shall not last forever. Therefore, we may as well admit the removal of legal segregation to be the end toward which we work."

These things we can do today, tomorrow, and the day after: work out by sheer logic and good conscience what our ultimate good shall be and declare it; work toward ^{all possible} accomplishment under the separate but equal doctrine now in effect."

Despite that example of organized religion's inability to transcend local race sentiment, the sheer weight of deeds shows the trend. In October, the two-million member National Baptist Convention (Negro) affiliated with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. This affiliation brought the membership of the latter organization to more than thirty-one million Negro and white people in twenty-nine denominations.

In August, one hundred Negro churches constituting the Bi-Annual Council of Community Churches merged with the white National Council of Community Churches. The new group represents more than three hundred churches and is called The International Council of Community Churches. The leaders of this group call the merger "one of the most significant movements in the history of the church."

One of the most significant indications of the trend of religion's transcending the race barrier was the merger in November, in Cleveland, ^{Ohio} of 27 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches

which brought into being the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

The new organization will supersede the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and become the most important Protestant body of the country. Negroes were prominent among the elected officers of the new group.

In southern California, a Negro Methodist bishop presided over a sectional conference of Negro and white Methodist churches. It was the first time a Negro had presided at a so-called white Methodist conference in that section.

In New Orleans, some 7500 Catholic teachers blaster race prejudice, defying local covenants and law, by having Negro and white children form a group ^{and} to sing the mass. Father Louis J. Tromey, S. J., of Loyola University of the South, New Orleans, asked, "How long is God going to allow his images and likenesses in black skins to be kicked around?" Tremendous applause was immediate.

Yet, a white Protestant minister who during 1949 assailed segregation in the local schools of Alton, Illinois, lost his position in 1950 as pastor of the First Unitarian Church of that city by a 46 - 25 vote of church members. Although the members' reason was that the discharge was because of his personality, the minister is quoted in the ^{generally} "Tribune" saying: "There is no question but that my difficulties arose over my action to prevent trouble between the races -- which apparently was resented by someone in high position."

The Rev. Patrick J. Malloy, Moderator of the Catholic Interracial Council and pastor of St. Peter Claver Church, spoke to a crowd of unruly white persons at a St. Louis swimming pool just opened to Negroes as well as whites by order of the Federal District Court, attempting to inject some sense of brotherhood. The temper of the crowd was similar to that which had previously erupted into a racial clash at the Fairground Park pool of that city.

Rev. Roland T. Neacock, a Negro, was appointed pastor of a white Congregational Church in Stafford Springs, Conn.

Rev. O. H. Brown became the first Negro appointed Honorary Cannon in the Protestant Episcopal Church, in Buffalo, New York.

HOUSING

Laws continued to be the vehicle of the most important progress in the field of housing. Four states and five cities have good laws against discrimination in publicly-financed housing. The most important of these is that one which went into effect shortly after the signing of a bill by Governor ^{July 1, 1950} ~~Wicks~~ ^{in New York} ~~August~~ ¹⁹⁵⁰ of New York after the bill's unanimous passage by both Houses of the Legislature of that state. The New York law bans discrimination and segregation in both public housing and private housing which is publicly aided, by tax exemption, financial assistance, condemnation, or a markdown in price.

During the first six months of 1950 ordinances against discrimination and segregation in housing were enacted in New York City, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Boston's 1948 law was strengthened, and the St. Paul, Minnesota Housing Re-Development Authority on March 9, 1950 adopted a resolution prohibiting discrimination and segregation in housing projects ^{then} ~~not~~ to be constructed.

Discrimination in public housing accommodations was outlawed in Hartford, Connecticut on June 24, 1949.

In September, a resolution was passed by the Newark (N. J.) Housing Authority, declaring that all dwelling accommodations under the jurisdiction of the Authority shall be allotted on the basis of housing needs without regard to race, religion, color, national origin and ancestry of applicants.

In December, the Chicago (Illinois) Housing Authority amended its policy to include non-segregation of races in its new public housing projects.

In October, a Federal District Court ruled that financial penalties in restrictive covenants cannot be enforced in the courts.

In December, a Federal District Court ruled that racial zoning laws then existing in Birmingham, Alabama, were unconstitutional. The city was enjoined from enforcing such laws.

The first Negro family moved into Ronet Park, a new housing development near Amityville, Long Island, in April. The project will contain some one thousand one-story houses that are for sale to purchasers regardless of race, creed, or color.

A small wedge was made during the year in the status of discrimination against Negroes by Levitt & Sons in their Levittown housing development in Long Island, and by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in their Stuyvesant Town housing project in New York City. The record shows at least one Negro family is now living in each development.

The development of property for Negroes by Negroes increases. In New Orleans, the Gentilly Gardens development, consisting of apartments, began leasing its units during the

year.

In Atlanta, Georgia, a commitment for more than \$200,000 of mortgage insurance was made by the Federal Housing Administration officials for a forty-four unit housing ^{project developed through} ~~development~~ under the cooperation of a Negro sponsor and a Negro insurance company.

On the debit side of the ledger, the Missouri Supreme Court rendered a decision that property owners who sell to Negroes in a racially-restricted area may be sued for breach of contract. The United States Supreme Court refused to review the ruling of an Appeals Court decision that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's exclusion of Negroes from Stuyvesant Town violated neither the equal protection guaranty of the Federal Constitution nor the similar provision of the State Constitution.

Indicative of the increasing number of Negro officials in the housing field is the appointment of McClinton Mann as Executive Director of the Toledo Mutual Housing Authority in Ohio. The authority has six low-rent projects that house approximately 1,439 Negro and white families, and five veteran housing projects totaling about 500 units. Nearly 600 Negroes and white families ^{employees of the Authority} come under Mann's direction.

THE ARMED FORCES

1950 afforded circumstances of both peace and war in which the development of democracy in the armed forces might be viewed.

The President's Committee On Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Forces was appointed in July, 1948, "to examine into the rules, procedures, and practices of the armed forces in order to determine what changes were necessary to carry out the President's policy as set forth in Executive Order 9801." In addition to announcing and giving authority to the Committee, ^{he stated} it was ~~A~~ policy of the President that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." ^{Some} Improvements did result. 1950 witnessed moves toward integration in every branch of the service, but *recorded instances of the lack of integration involved the Army too frequently to say its progress was as commendable*. The Korean situation afforded opportunity to see the extent *as in other* of integration ^{during actual battle} ~~not only~~ in Korea, ^{and} ~~but~~ around the world. *branches of the armed forces* Integration was found to be spotty by several war correspondents and other interested persons. The greatest change in the Navy ⁱⁿ seemed to be ~~not~~ an extension of opportunity to Negroes for advancement in its various branches. On the fighting front, at least one case of integration was the result of what was officially described as a "clerical error". Some 300 Negro soldiers had been sent to the 24th regiment, a Negro unit, but by mistake arrived at the 24th Division. Because of the urgent need for replacements they were kept and developed an example of successful integration.

As early as January 16, 1950, Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray said, of an announcement on the "utilization of Negro

manpower in the Army, "...this represents an additional step in the furtherance of the President's policy as specified in Executive Order 9981." The new regulation stated: "The policy of the Department of the Army is that there ^{shall} be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons -- all manpower will be utilized to obtain maximum efficiency in the Army."

An unclassified message from the Department of Army Staff Message Center, dated the 27th of March, 1950, states: "Effective within the month of April, all enlistments in the Army within all recruiting quarters will be open to qualified applicants without regard to race or creed."

The effect of such orders revealed as all too slow in taking effect have occasioned such headlines in the press of the country as: "TWO WAY INTEGRATION OF NEGRO-WHITE SOLDIERS ^{PRASED} ~~PROVEN~~ BY ARMY GENERAL"; "NO SEGREGATION IN US ARMY, SAYS KIMITE..."; "SPRATTE NOTES 24TH'S HEROISM IN KOREA"; and a headline of August 27, 1950 "ARMY UNIT ENDS SEGREGATION, FINDS IT WORKS".

Up to the end of the year there appeared to be only two Negro aviators with the Navy in the Korean area. Wholesale court martials of Negroes in that area stirred tremendous suspicion of racial injustices.

News commentators across the country extolled the heroism of Negro units on many networks -- despite official statements of integration through the Korean command area.

from which the heroism or presence of negro troops could be gleaned,

more
Nevertheless, ~~the~~ statements (from high army officials) were heard in the few months of the Korean conflict than in any period of World War II. General MacArthur was quoted in December as saying, "Colored troops in this command have served magnificently. In this command all troops are on equal basis and no evaluation is given race or national origin. Soldiering ability is the only standard of judgment...I am convinced they have earned promotions and decorations comparing favorably with those of any other elements."

Colonel Marshall, Official Army Historian, praised Negro GI's and mixed units, citing one mixed company which caught sixty hand grenades thrown by the Reds and tossed thirty back into Red lines. Colonel Marshall concludes, "the integrated action along the Chongchon River represents an outstanding military achievement and proved that mixed combat teams work excellently."

ORGANIZATIONS

The first report of the Board of Trustees of the Ford Foundation sets forth the aims and purposes of this multi-million dollar organization. It is a heartening note stated therein that the Foundation will, among other things in five broad areas, support activity directed toward "a reduction of economic, religious and racial barriers to equality of educational opportunity at all levels."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization issued a report of the study of its panel of expert on race relations. The findings were called "the most authoritative statement of modern scientific doctrine on the controversial subject of race ever to be issued." The findings provided an elaboration of evidence that there is no scientific justification for race discrimination.

~~The Congress of Correction of the American Prison Association passed a resolution pledging that the organization will hereafter not hold its annual Congress of Correction in any city which denies equal treatment to all American citizens regardless of race, creed or national origin. The National Education Association convention also came to an official decision to meet only in cities which "provide a maximum degree of equality for those attending" the N.E.A. convention.~~

Many organizations pledged support to or active participation in the struggle for equality of citizenship for all Americans. A case of a more pin-pointed demand shows that couched in a statement of the Southern Regional Council that the south "shift from paternalism to democracy" in its treatment of Negro citizens. Although this demand was limited cautiously to a request that Negroes be represented on "policy-making" citizens committees that concern Negro welfare through public services, the statement was approved by the full membership of the Council. The Council is composed of southern businessmen, clergymen, editors, educators, and labor leaders.

Integration and Ascension of Negroes in Professional Organizations

The movement of Negroes into professional schools as a result of court decisions and a few outstanding voluntary actions, ^{were} supplemented by the admission of Negroes to several important national professional bodies and to many such local organizations. The increase in the Negroes' stature professionally and generally is also indicated by the importance of offices and committee memberships in which Negroes have been placed.

Lester B. Granger, Executive Director, National Urban League, was elected President-Nominate by the National Conference of Social Workers. This is one of the extremely few instances of the election of a Negro to the top post of a completely interracial national professional organization.

Dr. Peter M. Murray, a New York City physician, was elected to the ^{House of} Delegates of the American Medical Association. He is the first Negro to be elected to that policy-making body composed (during 1950) of 198 people representing approximately 147,000 physicians.

^{the April,} The House of Delegates of the Florida Medical Association changed its by-laws to make Negroes eligible for membership for the first time in the 76-year history of the organization.

^{the October} Joseph H. Fulton and William A. McClain were the first Negroes admitted to the Cincinnati Bar Association. Their admission broke a 76 year-old precedent.

^{and its constitution limits} The American Bowling Congress, convening in Columbus, Ohio voted on May 12 to ~~restrict membership~~ ^{only} to "white males", after facing three law suits aimed at elimination of this restriction.

The Women's International Bowling Congress voted unanimously to drop the "white only" restriction that had barred Negroes from its membership.

The Mountain Retreat Association, a Southern Presbyterian group, voted to abolish segregation at its summer conference grounds in North Carolina.

The National Council of Colored Graduate Nurses voted to disband after 42 years, as a result of the final arrangement for Negro nurses' membership and association of interests in the American Nurses' Association ^{Nurses} ~~and the Nursing League of America~~ ^{which} ~~which~~ will be interracial. Forerunners of this latest and more important integration occurred in state nurses groups and in schools of nursing. ^{WASH + NACON} ~~Before~~ ^{has been} out of 1200 schools of nursing only 42 were open to Negroes and 28 of that number were all-Negro schools. That number, 14, has risen now to 330; only 5 state nursing associations and the one in Washington, D. C., continue to refuse admission to Negroes.

Attitudes
Implied by
Actions

The National Education Association amended its constitution so as to provide that its conventions will be held only in cities which "provide a maximum degree of equality for those attending."

The Congress of Correction of the American Prison Association adapted a resolution at its annual conference, in November, which pledged the Congress "hereafter" not to meet in any city which refuses equal treatment to American citizens, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

The American Nurses Association, during its biennial convention in San Francisco during May of 1950, voted for the development of plans for a new organization which will include ~~pro and~~ white nurses. The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, founded in 1908, voted to cease its operation as an organization. NAACGN members are to be included in the new organizations, which will be known as the American Nurses Association and the Nurses League of America. This move toward complete integration is part of the same trend now very well defined that has seen the number of nursing schools accepting Negro students grow from 28 out of 1800 prior to World War II to 130 now. State nurses associations have been lowering the barriers to increasing intakes; only five of these organizations and the one in the District of Columbia still refuse to admit Negroes.

At the November annual meeting of the American National Red Cross its Board of Governors endorsed a proposal coming out of its medical policy committee and the operating committee for the Red Cross blood program which, in effect, calls for the elimination of the requirement that information on the race of blood donors be given.

On October 19th Oscarwing, Federal Security Administrator, met an attempt at flagrant discrimination against Negroes headed by Governor Herman Tamm of Georgia, had refused to include Negroes among the delegates from Georgia to the White House Mid-Century Conference On Children and Youth. Continued refusal

of the Governor to include any Negroes among the number of delegates allowed from Georgia was met by Waring by setting 16 places for these delegates. Georgia had been all told 36 delegates who when selected, were all white persons; persons for the additional 16 places would "be chosen on the basis of recommendations made by appropriate groups in Georgia", according to a letter from Mr. Waring to the Governor. The Governor of Georgia was the only such official who refused to include Negroes in the state delegation.

~~The American Bowling Congress voted to end its rule that limits membership to white males only, in the wake of protests and at least three notable lawsuits demanding that Negroes be admitted.~~

~~Florida Medical Association admitted Negroes for the first time in 1911.~~

~~In October, the Cincinnati Bar Association elected two Negroes to membership for the first time.~~

The Harvard University Student Council in January voted to ban bias in any of its student organizations.

Phi Delta Sigma fraternity in January voted to admit Negroes for the first time.

The trustees of Rutgers University made known their official disapproval of bias in student campus organizations.

In February Columbia University Inter-Fraternity Council urged all of its member units to end all discrimination on account of race, color, or creed.

~~In February it was found that 60% of Dartmouth students
disapproved of bias in fraternities.~~

A United Nations subcommittee approved a motion asking governments to send information on anti-bias legislation.

CIVIL RIGHTS

On the civil rights front the stench of "separate but equal" is at last being blown away. ^{Legumes,} The courts of the land still pay homage to that doctrine, as underscored by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U.S. 547 (1896).

Most of the actions of the United States Supreme Court and of dozens of lesser courts in civil rights cases have tactfully to ^{that doctrine} ~~the doctrine~~, varying not one whit from the sharpest focus of the case at hand, usually stating flatly that the decision (even though it may be on the democratic side of the ledger) is applicable to only certain specifically stated aspects of the case. The infamous practice of segregation based on and upheld by law supported by the doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson is continued.

~~However,~~ A trend for the better is unquestionably discernable. The trend is too slow, too buffeted by regional and selfish interests, but can be documented and is directed toward more justice for all Americans.

Careful estimate indicates some one hundred fifty civil rights cases appearing before courts in most instances to establish legal prohibition of undemocratic discriminatory action based on color. The largest single category of such cases concerns the field of education. Actual change in the status of minority groups brought about by civil rights measures stems from only recent decisions, particularly the ones of the Supreme Court on June 5th.

One of the three June 5th rulings, in effect, held segregation of Negroes and other passengers in dining cars to be unlawful. The ruling reversed the decision of the lower court, which had held that the treatment of the appellant, Elmer Henderson, did not violate Section 3, paragraph 1, of the Interstate Commerce Act. "That section," according to the text of the Supreme Court decision, "makes it unlawful for a railroad in interstate commerce to subject any particular person, ... to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever..." Various interpretations of the text point out that the rules and practices of the Southern Railway Company, which required Negroes (and the appellant), because of their race, to sit at a separate table in a dining car in interstate travel, violated the Interstate Commerce Act.

Nevertheless, according to a reprint of Southern Railway Company rules, revised because of the June 5th decision, another change is developing. Paragraph II of the revised rules

states: "...when entering singly, women will be seated with women, men with men, young people with young people, elderly persons with elderly persons, white persons with white persons, and colored with colored."

"In following the above illustrations, steamers will bear in mind (occupied space permitting) white passengers should be seated from the buffet or kitchen end of the dining car and colored persons from the opposite end."

Here is the segregation in effect today in most southern cities on public surface transportation facilities, whites seated from front to rear, Negroes from rear to front; from the ends toward the middle..."colored with colored"!

Two reports of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress dated June 27th and November 2th, group 65 and 78 ^{important lawsuits} ~~important lawsuits~~, respectively, under ~~these~~ thirteen headings. Some idea of the impact on civil rights may be secured by recognizing that during, say, November 78 cases were pending in the courts and involved the following areas: discrimination and segregation in education; discrimination in places of public accommodation; violence and race riots; libel; miscegenation; discrimination and segregation in housing; movie censorship; alien land laws; employment; discrimination and segregation in unions; discrimination in voting and election privileges; ~~making~~ "due process of law" in criminal cases; and restrictions on religious liberty.

In Chicago more than 10,000 Negro families moved outside so-called colored areas. ^{is found} record of only one disturbance resulting from these moves into so-called white areas, in ~~1944~~

On the national scene, the Supreme Court ruling against racial discrimination in interstate bus travel, progress in abolishing racial segregation in the armed services, and Supreme Court rulings against segregation of students in state universities, paved improvements.

During April, the Democratic Party of South Carolina held county conventions throughout the state with Negroes participating as a result of the 1948 ruling of Federal Judge J. Walter Waring, of Charleston. Judge Waring's ruling opened the traditional white party to Negro membership. Since that time, the Judge and his wife have been the target of many criticisms and even attempts ^{at} physical violence coming from irate, bigoted reactionaries in the area.

In Richmond, Virginia, despite employment of Negroes as firemen for the first time in the history of the city and also despite the presence of the kind of intelligent leadership that caused the college of William and Mary to state its readiness to accept Negro students, a police court judge, Charleston F. Jewett, carried segregation a step forward. In addition to traditional separation between Negro and white spectators and witnesses, Justice Jewett ordered that Negro attorneys should sit on the left and white attorneys on the

right side of the courtroom.

The Nation's Capitol

One great blot in the national view of the country has been, and is, the rank contradiction of words and deeds coming out of the capitol of the United States. While from the halls of the Congress and from the mouths of national elected officials come glib statements about democracy, freedom, and justice, the geographical boundaries of the District of Columbia contain patterns of segregation and discrimination decried everywhere. Many organizations have attempted by innumerable methods to secure the elimination of segregation and discrimination there, but with little success. A few developments are important; however, they are not enough to indicate a clear-cut trend.

Some fourteen Washington restaurants were reported to have accepted Negro patronage during the year. Another one was ordered to pay Hazel Scott \$250 damages, by a court that found the restaurant guilty of abridging her right to be served. Swimming pools were opened to both Negro and white swimmers; but the Capital Transit Company again refused to hire Negroes as "platform operators" claiming its employees would all walk off their jobs if Negroes were hired.

THE ARTS

Negro talent continued to be a most important vehicle of interracial good-will. Perhaps the first area of acceptance of the best performance of Negroes, the field of art has recognized Negroes at its top echelons for more than three decades. During 1950, the most frequent use of Negro talent was in popular entertainment, as might be expected generally, but despite the waning support of the more classical forms of art, that epitome of the operatic field, the Metropolitan Opera Association still refused to utilize the gifts of ~~great~~ ^{great} Negro singers. The major symphony orchestras of the nation did not find Negroes among their members except in special situations, ^{but} several Negroes had debuts ^{on} in New York City's revered concert stages. The "Concertist of the Year Award" went to a Negro, presented by the Carnegie Hall Association.

Gwendolyn Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize, for her book of poetry, "Annie Allen", published in late 1949. This marked the first time a Negro woman had won that prize.

Negro painters continued to find their works hanging in important places of the art world. Significant among the less well-known artists was the inclusion of a painting by Charles Henry Alston and one by Romare H. Bearden, as a part of "American Painting Today", a national competitive exhibition, at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Stage Juanita Hall, singer in "South Pacific" was awarded the Antoinette Perry Award for 1950, for distinguished performance. Ethel Waters turned out outstanding performances as the leading player in the Broadway hit, "Member of the Wedding."

Movies
The Glasses

"No Way Out" was the important step forward of Hollywood for the year. "The Broken Arrow" broke new ground; intermarriage of a white man and Indian girl was significant, for the American screen. "The Jackie Robinson Story" met with success, while "Intruder in the Dust," "Lost Boundaries" and "Pinky" continued in the minds of the public. "Gentlemen's Agreement" continued to be discussed by forums as a vehicle of focusing attention on how to handle racially-centered problems in a social setting.

Television

A great boom to Negro performing artists was enjoyed as television programs included more and more Negroes. The field of television ^{has not} hamstrung itself, settled down to many set patterns, but the year held high hopes that Negroes were "in" at the ground floor and might be able to make good progress in this medium. Over the country, television brought Negro faces into many living rooms from which Negroes, in person, have been traditionally excluded except in the role of menials.

Radio

There was an increase, during 1950, of Negro personnel with radio stations. Although the trend was towards using Negroes with programs directed primarily at Negro audiences, there was a notable white listening public for Negro disc jockeys, commentators and entertaining stars in both the North and the South. One Negro commentator, a college professor in Atlanta, Georgia, broadcasting over the first Negro-owned radio station in the country, could attest to the existence of the interest of his white audience. He received many threatening letters about his factual reporting of the news, particularly of news that prejudiced persons think should not be aired. Nevertheless, the public popularity of Negroes over the airwaves was proved by the increasing number of Negro personnel in radio.

IN REPLY

During the year, the nation suffered the deaths of Charles R. Drew, Washington Surgeon, noted for his blood plasma findings; Charles H. Houston, District of Columbia lawyer, credited with much of the legal strategy for NAACP cases before the U. S. Supreme Court; and Carter G. Woodson, long identified with the Negro History movement in this country; and of many other Negroes who turned out outstanding jobs in their own areas of competence, in the struggle for justice and liberty for all Americans.